

April 2011 JPM / CS / APS / EPSS / PSHS Joint Subcommittee Meeting

ABSTRACT SUBMITTAL FORM

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ABSTRACT INFORMATION

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AUTHOR INFORMATION

Author/Presenter Name: Scott B. Tashakkor

Affiliation Jacobs/ESTS

Address Marshall Space Flight Center, Mail Code: EV33

City MSFC State AL Zip 35812

Telephone 256-961-1173 Telefax 256-544-3023

e-mail: Scott.B.Tashakkor@nasa.gov

2nd Author: Dr. Francisco Canabal

Affiliation NASA

Address Marshall Space Flight Center, Mail Code: EV33

City MSFC State AL Zip 35812

Telephone 256-544-3053 Telefax 256-544-3023

e-mail: Francisco.Canabal@nasa.gov

3rd Author: Jason E. Mishtawy

Affiliation NASA

Address Marshall Space Flight Center, Mail Code: EV33

City MSFC State AL Zip 35812

Telephone 256-544-4077 Telefax 256-544-3023

e-mail: Jason.E.Mishtawy@nasa.gov

Additional Author(s):

Affiliation

Address

City State Zip

Telephone Telefax

e-mail:

MANAGEMENT APPROVAL

The individual below certifies that the required resources are available to present this paper at the above subject JANNAF meeting.

Responsible Manager authorizing presentation: Bill Crosby

Title/Agency: Supervisor/Jacobs

Telephone Number: 256-544-1622

e-mail:

Date:

William.A.Crosby@nasa.gov

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ABSTRACT SUBMITTAL FORM

Unclassified Abstract

(250-300 words; do not include figures or tables)

The Loci-CHEM 3.2 Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) code is being used to predict Ares-I launch vehicle aerodynamic heating. CFD has been used to predict both ascent and stage reentry environments and has been validated against wind tunnel tests and the Ares I-X developmental flight test. Most of the CFD predictions agreed with measurements. On regions where mismatches occurred, the CFD predictions tended to be higher than measured data. These higher predictions usually occurred in complex regions, where the CFD models (mainly turbulence) contain less accurate approximations. In some instances, the errors causing the over-predictions would cause locations downstream to be affected even though the physics were still being modeled properly by CHEM. This is easily seen when comparing to the 103-AH data. In the areas where predictions were low, higher grid resolution often brought the results closer to the data. Other disagreements are attributed to Ares I-X hardware not being present in the grid, as a result of computational resources limitations. The satisfactory predictions from CHEM provide confidence that future designs and predictions from the CFD code will provide an accurate approximation of the correct values for use in design and other applications.